

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 8, line 17, as follows:

a' The external drum platesetter 16 includes an external drum 20 having a cylindrical media support surface 22 for supporting the printing plate 18 during imaging. The external drum platesetter 16 further includes a scanning system 24, coupled to a movable carriage 26, for recording digital data onto the imaging surface 21 of the printing plate 18 using a single or multiple imaging beams 28. An example of a scanning system 24 is illustrated in FIG. 2. In particular, the scanning system 24 is displaced by the movable carriage 26 in a slow scan axial direction (directional arrow A) along the length of the rotating external drum 20 to expose the printing plate 18 in a line-wise manner when a single beam is used or in a section-wise manner for multiple beams. Other types of imaging systems may also be used in the present invention. As shown in FIG. 2, the printing plate 18 includes a substrate 21S and an imageable layer 21IL formed on the substrate 21S.

Please amend the paragraph starting on page 22, line 2, as follows:

Q² The flags ~~168~~ 166 and 170 may be configured to protrude through slots 184 formed in the cassette 100 as illustrated in FIG. 14. The sensors 180 and 182 would therefore be located externally from the cassette 100. This configuration may be used to prevent extraneous light from entering the cassette 100 when light sensitive printing plates are stacked therein. Alternately, the flags ~~168~~ 166, 170, and sensors 180, 182, may all be located within the cassette 100. Also shown in FIG. 14 is one of a plurality of wheels 186 that may be mounted on the underside of the cassette 100 to facilitate the transporting of the cassette to and from the external drum platesetter 16, and/or to facilitate the placement and mounting of the cassette 100 on the external drum platesetter 16.